

1763

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: THOMAS P.H.F. WENDLING, et al
Assignee: APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR EVENLY FLOWING PROCESSING
GAS ONTO A SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER
Serial No.: 09/972,544 Confirmation Number Assignment: 4423
Filed: 10/05/2001 Group Art Unit: 1763
Attorney Docket No.: 5312 Examiner: LUND, Jeffrie Robert.

Santa Clara, California
March 15, 2004

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.143

**Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231**

Sir:

The present communication is in response to the Office Action dated February 18, 2004, outlining the Examiner's restriction requirement between groups:

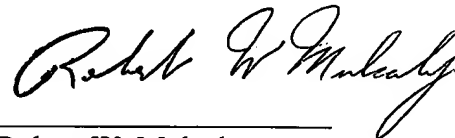
- I. Claims 1-12 drawn to a semiconductor processing apparatus, classified in class 118, subclass 715.
- II. Claims 13 and 14 drawn to a method of spreading a gas, classified in class 239, subclass 7.

In response to the Examiner's requirement of election of claims, Applicant's undersigned Attorney hereby elects Group I, Claims 1-12 drawn to a semiconductor processing apparatus, classified in class 118, subclass 715 for prosecution, with traverse.

Applicant's undersigned attorney invites any direct telephone communication from the Examiner to expedite prosecution of the subject Application.

Applicants believe that no fee is due in connection with the filing of this document. However, should a fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1074.

Respectfully Submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service with sufficient postage as first class mail on this date indicated above and is addressed to : MAIL STOP: Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date March 15, 2004


Emma Koh

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